1. What is your past Model UN experience?

I participated in PMUNC last year. I was a part of a smaller specialized committee that debated and discussed the partitioning India in 1947.

2. What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?

One thing about this committee that really interests me is how the Ukrainian Crisis is still very relevant today. Issues that were important during the crisis are still very real today. For example,  the Ukrainian Crisis shows the difficulties of having veto powers in the UN. Talking about the crisis seems like a really interesting and fun way for me to learn more about international relations.

3. What are some of the major factors that influence Ukraine’s relationship with both the West

and with Russia?

Ukraine as a whole seems like it wants to have a stronger connection to the west, but Crimea, the Russians in Ukraine, and Russia itself seem to be again the idea.

It’s interesting that Ukraine attempted (unsuccessfully) to join NATO in 2008.

It’s also important to note that Ukraine used to be part of the Soviet Union. Russia still feels like it has a claim to Ukraine because of this, and this has affected their foreign policy towards them.

4. The annexation of Crimea—justifiable or a crime? Why? Be concise, be specific.

Personally, I think it can become a precarious precedent that other stronger countries can use to annex weaker ones (particularly in Asia). Although it is true to fact that many Crimeans supposedly want to join Russia, it is also true that Ukraine has wanted a stronger connection with the West for the past couple of years. I think that the annexation of Crimea was essentially Russia grabbing more land from a weaker country that was in a rough sport, and therefore I think it was a crime.